7.   (Amended)   A coding/decoding apparatus comprising the coding apparatus according to claim 1 and the decoding apparatus according to claim 3.

14.   (Amended)   A decoding method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of deleting, when a known data exists in a code block subjected to error correcting decoding, the known data.

15.   (Amended)   A decoding method according to claim 12, wherein said error correcting decoding step replaces a soft decision value of the part of the known data of a code block with a maximum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 0 and replaces with a minimum value of the soft decision value when the known data is 1 and carries out error correcting decoding of the known data using the replaced soft decision value.

16.   (Amended)   A coding/decoding method that decodes a signal coded by the coding method according to claim 10 by the decoding method according to claim 12.

2